

## **Local Boundary Commission**

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**From:** "Wendy Svarny-Hawthorne" <WendySvarny@ounalashka.com>  
**To:** <LBC@dced.state.ak.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 06, 2003 5:00 PM  
**Subject:** Borough Incorporation Public Comment -- Aleutians West Model Borough

Dear Commission Members,

Ounalashka Corporation (OC) is the Native village corporation of Unalaska, Alaska, formed in 1973 under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. As the major landowner within the City of Unalaska, OC pays the bulk of property taxes in the Aleutians West Model Borough.

We cannot see any benefit to the formation of a borough at this time for the following reasons:

- While the combined communities' populations are large enough to form a borough, 90% live, work and pay taxes in Unalaska.
  - Only Unalaska collects property taxes
  - Unalaska collects sales tax
  - The other communities do not tax property or sales, with the exception of Adak
- Unalaska supports itself economically as a municipality. While Unalaska may help the model borough meet economic standards for forming a borough government, the rest of the communities in the model do not have the revenue and will not be able to contribute to the support of a borough government.
  - The community of Unalaska would end up supporting the other communities' combined populations of 543.
- Unalaska may be within a common zone regarding the REAA standards, but Unalaska has its own successful and highly effective school district. Forming a borough would damage Unalaska City School District's ability to provide the high quality education to which the City's residents have grown accustomed.

We respectfully request that the Local Boundary Commission allow the Aleutians West Model Borough to remain unorganized until such time that there is more equity between the proposed model's member communities.

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